

# TEESDALE HALLS NEWS

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## The Newsletter of the Teesdale Village Halls Consortium

Giving information on opportunities, ideas, contacts and much more for the management committee members and user groups of community buildings in Teesdale, and other related organisations.



### Merry Christmas from Teesdale Village Halls Consortium!

Helen, Sue, David, Rosemary, Joyce, James, Christine and Mike would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thank you for your support throughout 2009 and we look forward to seeing you all in 2010!

#### Newsletter Contact Helen Thistlethwaite

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Visit our website at

[www.teesdalehalls.co.uk](http://www.teesdalehalls.co.uk) for up to date information on the Consortium and the halls including full events listings. Copies of this, and previous newsletters are also available on the website.

#### HOT TIP!

If you are doing any of your Christmas shopping online this year remember to use the easyfundraising website at

[www.easyfundraising.org.uk/teesdalehalls](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/teesdalehalls)

Raise funds whilst you shop as normal online; over 2000 of the UK's best known retailers are involved in the service and it won't cost you a penny extra to use!

### What a Difference A Hall Makes!



On 29th October Teesdale Village Halls Consortium held its first 'What A Difference A Hall Makes' event which was a huge success.

The aim of the event was to provide the member halls of Teesdale Village Halls Consortium with a one stop shop of information to assist with the running of their halls. We invited local organisations who can provide services or work with village halls to support them to have an information stand at the event and the following organisations were represented: 2D; Claire Todd, Learning Coordinator; County Durham Foundation; Durham Rural Community Council; Extended Services for Teesdale and Staindrop Schools; Groundwork; Highlights Rural Touring Scheme; North Pennine Dales Leader; Northern Echo; Radio Teesdale; Tees Environmental Consulting; Teesdale Action Partnerships; Teesdale Day Clubs; Teesdale Leisure Services; Teesdale Mercury and Teesdale Training.

The event also recognised the hard work and dedication given by all of TVHC's member halls management committees and we were delighted to welcome to the event David Bellamy OBE who presented certificates of recognition of the much valued volunteering that is carried out. David also very kindly presented signed copies of one of his books.

The winner of the Match the Village Hall Quiz was Heather Dickenson from the Lipscombe Hall in Cockfield who received £25.00 worth of High Street vouchers. Thank you to all the member halls and organisations who attended the event and to 2D for their support in arranging the event - we look forward to seeing you again next year!

**Picture:** The TVHC Directors with Helen Thistlethwaite and David Bellamy OBE

### Would your hall be interested in holding a Boxercise or Spinning Cycling Class?

Teesdale Leisure Services currently have funding and an instructor to provide a Boxercise class and a Spinning class within village halls in Teesdale. Boxercise is a fun stress busting workout and Spinning is an indoor group cycling exercise class. Both classes would be for those aged 16 +. The Boxercise class can be run for 40 weeks and would require at least ten people. The hire of the hall and tutor costs will be funded and attendees would be charged at £4.00 per session. It would be possible to arrange taster sessions in halls to see what local interest there would be. The Spinning class can run for 50 weeks and would also require at least ten people. Again, the hire of the hall and tutor costs will be funded and attendees would be charged at £4.00 per session. However with the spinning class, a large storage area would be needed for the bikes. If you interested in finding out about either class please contact Michelle Scott, Adult Healthy Living Coordinator (based at Teesdale Sports Centre) on 01833 696344 or email [michelle.scott@durham.gov.uk](mailto:michelle.scott@durham.gov.uk) This is an excellent opportunity for halls which we would advise you to take advantage of. The classes are planned to start in January so if you are interested please contact Michelle as soon as possible before Christmas.

### Funding Opportunities

#### Healthier Durham Fund

**Who can apply?** Community groups working within County Durham (excluding Darlington)

**How much is the award?** The committee will consider awards up to £2,000

**Criteria:** Funding will be awarded to groups that can demonstrate the money will be used for projects that aim to

- Improve Physical Health
- Address Health Inequalities
- Improve Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Supporting Users and Carers with Long Term Conditions

Examples could be projects that aim to:

- Reduce Heart Disease
- Stop Smoking
- Provide Exercise and Positive Lifestyles Activities
- Improve Nutrition
- Improve Mental Health and Motivation

For further information contact Clare Johnson, Grants Officer, County Durham Foundation on 0191 383 0055, email [clare@countydurhamfoundation.co.uk](mailto:clare@countydurhamfoundation.co.uk) or visit the website [www.countydurhamfoundation.co.uk](http://www.countydurhamfoundation.co.uk)

#### Durham County Council Arts Development Small Grants Scheme

This is a scheme to support projects which contribute to the creative and cultural development of County Durham. Applying for a small grant is one way in which groups can get involved in County Durham's bid to become UK City of Culture. The maximum you can apply for is £500.00. The next deadline for the 2009/10 round of the scheme is 12noon on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2010. You will be notified within two weeks of the outcome.

**Who is eligible to apply?** Community and voluntary organisations, arts organisations, social enterprises, parish or town councils, professional artists providing they can show that there is a wider community benefit as a result of funding. You must be based in County Durham and your project must benefit the people of County Durham.

Priorities for creative projects: The funding is to support creative projects which respond to Durham County Council's priorities which are to support:

- More people getting involved in arts activities
- Aspirations to achieve high artistic and creative quality
- Strengthening existing partnerships or building new ones
- Arts development – working across new art forms, learning new skills, reaching new audiences
- Meeting one or more council priorities – healthier communities, safer communities, people enjoying, achieving and making a positive contribution, economic wellbeing and an improved environment.

For more information contact Michael Farlow on 01388 816166 or email [artsgrants@durham.gov.uk](mailto:artsgrants@durham.gov.uk)

### Grassroots Grants Funding – Update

The purpose of the Grassroots Grants is to support small, informal voluntary and community groups and organisations to develop their capacity and provide them with the ability to respond to their community's needs. The grants provided can support capital or revenue purchases; the minimum grant is £250, the maximum is £5000.

Funding is still available from this programme; however any awards made now will not be released until April 2010. Groups are encouraged to continue to submit applications which, as funding cannot be retrospective, should be for projects and capital or revenue costs for the financial year beginning 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010. These will be assessed and presented to the panel for decision. You will receive an offer letter if you have been awarded a grant but the funds will not be released until April 2010. Examples of what Grassroots will fund includes purchase of equipment e.g. oven, furniture; costs of putting on a local event or workshop; staff costs to enable the employment of individuals; contribution to rent costs (related to activities/service delivery); the cost of attending a conference or event; training for volunteers; additional activities to expand an existing funded project; activities that support community activity..

For more information and to download a copy of the Expression of Interest form for a grant please visit [www.countydurhamfoundation.co.uk/grassroots.htm](http://www.countydurhamfoundation.co.uk/grassroots.htm) or contact Helen at TVHC for a copy of the form.

**Government to End Rain Tax for Community Sector**

The Government has signalled its intention to introduce new legislation that promises to end crippling water charge increases for community groups. The Flood and Water Management Bill will allow water and sewerage companies to apply concessionary schemes for community premises, thereby ending the financial difficulties faced by community organisations being charged according to the size of their site instead of their rateable value. The good news marks a turning point in the long campaign by the community sector to stop huge increases in water draining charges for community centres, village halls, churches, scout groups, sports clubs, youth clubs and other community organisations. Last year OFWAT decided to end the concessionary rate for charities, leaving the water companies free to charge community organisations commercial rates.

In a speech made to the Labour party conference Hilary Benn, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced new legislation that would allow water companies to offer concessionary rates to community groups. Mr Benn said:

“Some churches, sports clubs and youth groups have been hit by huge increases in their water bills for surface drainage. It isn’t right. So I can tell you today that we will legislate to allow water companies to run concessionary schemes for these organisations so they can get on with the great job they are doing instead of worrying about unaffordable bills.”

*This information has been extracted from the October 2009 Community Matters magazine and the Consortium will keep you updated as we hear more on this issue.*

**Welcome to The Witham Cinema!**

The Witham Cinema project is the result of many months of planning and fundraising which has received funding and other support from Teesdale Village Halls Consortium, Barnard Castle Vision, Northern Film and Media, David Harper, Elizabeth Conran, Sarah Patrick, Radio Teesdale and a team of willing volunteers.

They aim to provide you with the opportunity to see films more frequently and reduce the cost by bringing cinema to your doorstep. They hope to be able to bring a wider variety of films than those in the larger cinema complexes. They are still a ‘village hall’ and don’t have all the plush facilities of other cinemas but they offer a warm welcome and the opportunity to meet up with people you know and enjoy a social experience.

**Tickets Prices**

<u>Ticket Type</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Non-Member</u>
Adult	£4.00	£5.00
Concession (Over 60s and students)	£3.00	£4.00
Children	£2.50	£3.50



**Membership**

The Witham are encouraging people to become a Cinema member in order for them to provide you with advance information direct to your home. Your membership also entitles you to a discounted ticket rate (see above)

Adult £2.00                                  Children £1.00

(Your membership fee will be paid annually and renewed on the anniversary of you joining)

**Volunteers**

The Witham are looking for more volunteers to assist with the running of the cinema. You can get involved doing a variety of jobs including ushering, serving refreshments, choosing films, marketing and fundraising. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer (full training will be given) please contact Annalisa Ward or Chris Best on 01833 631107.

Forthcoming films at the cinema include Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince, Crouching Tiger and Hidden Dragon, and Public Enemies. For full details please visit [www.withamcinema.co.uk](http://www.withamcinema.co.uk), telephone 01833 631107 or call in to the Witham, 3 Horsemarket, Barnard Castle.

**Teesdale Village Halls Consortium Online Service Directory**

The Consortium is currently gathering information to compile an Online Service Directory. We would like to encourage local businesses and organisations to promote the services they provide through our website; this can be services that can be offered to village halls and community centres across Teesdale as well as individuals such as plumbing, building, joinery, portable appliance testing and other electrical work, cleaning, decorating, gardening and general handyman services. Until 31st January 2010 it will be FREE to register your details on to this directory; after this date we will be introducing a charge to do so.

A registration form can be downloaded from [www.teesdalehalls.co.uk/onlineservicedirectory.asp](http://www.teesdalehalls.co.uk/onlineservicedirectory.asp) or please contact Helen on 01833 696650 or email [helen@teesdalehalls.co.uk](mailto:helen@teesdalehalls.co.uk)

### Items Available

Newsham Village Hall has the following items to give away: 40 blue plastic stacking chairs, 48 blue and white tea cups, 35 blue tea plates and 30 blue saucers. If you are interested please contact Rose Davies on 01833 621300

Ingleton Village Hall has a set of mains voltage Christmas tree lights to give away; enough for a large tree, would require PAT testing. If you are interested please contact David Ormandy 01325 733106.

### Licensing Act 2003 Changes – Training Session

As reported in the TVHC September newsletter, changes to the Licensing Act 2003 took effect from 29<sup>th</sup> July 2009. The Legislative Reform (Supervision of Alcohol Sales in Church and Village Halls) Order 2009 allows volunteer committees managing community buildings to take joint responsibility for the sale of alcohol in their buildings instead of being required to appoint an individual as the Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS). Management committees will need to ensure that the sale of alcohol is included in their Premises Licence and be able to demonstrate clearly to their local licensing authority how they operate and that there will be appropriate supervision of alcohol sales at different types of events.

TVHC is looking at setting up a training session in the New Year which would be ran by Durham Rural Community Council for any halls that are interested in finding out more about the Order and what this will involve for your committee if you are to take advantage of it.

If you would like to register your interest in taking part in a training session or find out more please contact Helen on 01833 696650 or email [helen@teesdalehalls.co.uk](mailto:helen@teesdalehalls.co.uk) by **Friday 22 January 2010**.

### Barnard Castle Rotary Club 'Eradicate Polio Now' Mobile Phone Recycle Campaign

Barnard Castle Rotary Club has launched a trade used mobile phones campaign in order to raise funds to totally eradicate the dreadful disease of poliomyelitis. Although the UK is virtually free from this crippling disease thanks to NHS ant-polio jabs, it is still a big problem in Africa, India, Pakistan and Afghanistan. These countries do not have the resources or infrastructure to treat everyone.

Robert Hartness from Barnard Castle Rotary Club explains how people can help: "In a nutshell, we want all the residents to look around their homes and places of work for used mobile phones. We have set up a special website where anyone with a used mobile phone can go online and discover how much it is worth at [www.endpolio.co.uk](http://www.endpolio.co.uk)"

They have teamed up with Envirocharities Ltd to collect up as many phones as they can right throughout Teesdale. They are arranging for such phones to be collected; there are collection points around the Dale.

There has been a good response to the campaign so far. The Rotary Club are looking for local organisations to promote this campaign amongst their workforce. They also need 'drop off a mobile' locations where those who do not have access to the Internet can simply turn up and hand in a phone.

For more details on the campaign please visit [www.endpolio.co.uk](http://www.endpolio.co.uk) or contact Robert Hartness on 01833 638445.

### Teesdale Action Partnership – November 2009 Update

The following project proposals will go forward to appraisal for funding from the 2009/2010 budget. (Agreed via consensus of the Board):

**The Broadband Priority Theme:** contribution to extension of the Barnard Castle Vision Project to provide broadband for people in Teesdale.

**The Support for Older People Priority Theme:** a Teesdale Older People Support (TOPS) small grant pot for easy access to grants for activities and events; a dedicated slot in the local media for older people (Radio and newsletter/paper); and an Over 50s Healthy Living Project

**The Environment and Street Scene Priority Theme:** the toilets in central Barnard Castle, and community facilities in Eggleston,

Following appraisal, a recommendation on each proposal will come back to the Board. The Board then recommends approval before final approval from Durham County Council.

**Playbuilder Programme:** Part of National Play Strategy, the Programme is about encouraging managed risk, so the funding is not for swings and slides. Bids are being sought for another 10 Playbuilder sites across County Durham for 2010/2011. Each AAP can submit up to 3 proposals. Groups need to submit Expressions of Interest to the AAP Co-ordinator by 11<sup>th</sup> December 2009.

The next Teesdale Action Partnership board meeting will take place on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January at 6.00pm at the Randolph Centre, Evenwood.

Members of the Forum and public are welcome to attend and bring potential issues to the Board; however, the issue and notification of attendance must be forwarded onto the Co-ordinator or AAP Team at least 10 days in advance of the meeting. If you would like to put forward an issue or question please contact Anne Magee or Maggie Wilson on 01833 696214 or 01833 696231 or email at [anne.magee@durham.gov.uk](mailto:anne.magee@durham.gov.uk) or [maggie.wilson@durham.gov.uk](mailto:maggie.wilson@durham.gov.uk).

### Your Choice Programme

If you're looking for a new challenge but feel discouraged because of the recession, the advice is don't give up, the Your Choice programme can help. It is made up of local voluntary, community, education and business organisations that can help guide people on to the right path.

#### Benefits...

- Information, advice and guidance to help form positive ideas and plans for the future.
- Volunteering to help develop skills and routines
- Training and skills development.
- Work experience with real employers doing a real job.
- Access to job vacancies.

Teesdale Village Halls Consortium is acting as a referral organisation for this programme. To find out more please contact Helen on 01833 696650 or email [helen@teesdalehalls.co.uk](mailto:helen@teesdalehalls.co.uk)

### County Durham Handyperson Service

I have been notified by Age Concern that they no longer run the handy van service and if any halls still have any of the old leaflets provided by Age Concern please can you dispose of these. The service has been taken over by Three Rivers who provide a handyperson and minor adaptations service across County Durham. The service focuses on older and vulnerable people and will carry out small repairs and maintenance jobs within people's homes and their immediate external environment. It aims to promote independent living, reduce accidents within the home, improve quality of life and maintain a sense of well-being, safety and security for the residents of the County. The service covers the former districts of Teesdale, Derwentside, Durham and Chester-le-Street, Easington, Wear Valley and Sedgefield. To compliment the handyperson and minor adaptations service, they will also carry out home safety assessments, jobs to facilitate hospital discharge and the installation of sensory and telecare equipment. For more information contact Three Rivers on 0191 375 3705 or email [handyperson@threerivershousing.co.uk](mailto:handyperson@threerivershousing.co.uk)

### An Evening of Christmas Fare with The Castle Players

In December and January village halls in County Durham will be served a feast of Christmas Fare by the Castle Players. The winter tour will make ten stops around the area and the programme includes a dramatised reading of the popular Dickens' classic Christmas Carol along with a selection of festive poems, readings and a comic song. Simon Pell who is leading the winter tour commented " We are bringing back one of our favourite pieces with a few new dramatic touches and adding in a number of other short festive performances to amuse and delight on these cold winter nights."

For more information visit [www.castleplayers.co.uk](http://www.castleplayers.co.uk) or telephone Annalisa Ward on 07928 901621.

#### PERFORMANCE DATES:

VENUE	DATE	TIME	PRICE	CONTACT
Whorlton Village Hall	Fri 4 December	7.00pm	£5.00	01833 627419
Stainton Village Hall	Sun 6 December	7.00pm	£5.00	01833 638348
Scarth Hall, Staindrop	Fri 11 December	7.00pm	£5.00 adults £2.50 children	01833 660171
Middridge Village Hall	Sat 12 December	7.30pm	£5.00	01325 321727/ 01325 316257
Bishop Auckland Town Hall	Sun 13 December	7.30pm	£5.00 £4.00 concessions	01388 602610
St Mary's Parish Hall, Barnard Castle	Fri 18 December	7.00pm	£4.00 adults £2.00 concessions £10.00 family	01833 690873 or from Connelly's Toyshop
Copley Village Hall	Sat 19 December	7.30pm	Free but numbers required for catering	01388 710112/ 01388 718172
Romaldkirk Reading Room	Sun 20 December	3.00pm	£5.00 adults £1.00 children	01833 650369
Ingleton Village Hall	Sun 10 January	3.00pm	£4.00 adults £2.00 children	01325 730250
Toft Hill Community Centre	Fri 16 January	7.30pm	£3.00 adults £1.50 children	01388 833293/ 01388 832265

**Proposed Single Tariff for PRS and PPL Licences**

ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) is seeking feedback from village hall committees about a proposed new single tariff for PRS and PPL licences. Currently most halls would need a PRS licence (for the playing of recorded music) but not necessarily a PPL licence which is needed for the playing of records, CDs, DVDs etc. for commercial purposes because they are charities.

The PRS licence costs 1% of a halls income with a minimum of £40.00 per year but there is a proposal that the two licences can be combined at a fee of £81.00 per year to be applied irrespective of the fact that the organisation is charitable. Any hall with an annual income of less than £8,100 will therefore be worse off.

If you would like to comment on this proposal please contact Ian Pillar at Durham Rural Community Council on 01207 529621 or email [ian@durhamrcc.org.uk](mailto:ian@durhamrcc.org.uk)

**Could you spare a couple of hours to support Teesdale Day Clubs?**

The Association of Teesdale Day Clubs provides a support service to elderly and isolated people throughout Teesdale. They provide a lunch and a chance to get together for people in ten locations. They would not be able to run this vital service without their team of dedicated volunteers who work on a rota basis.

At the moment two of their clubs, at Barnard Castle and Stainton Grove, are desperately in need of new volunteers if they are to continue. Could you spare a couple of hours to help support this important and unique service?

If you feel you would like to try, please contact Peter or Madeleine on 01833 695822.

**Funding Information**

The funding information on the TVHC website has recently been updated so if you are currently looking for grants please visit <http://www.teesdalehalls.co.uk/funding.asp>

**Half Price Swimming for Adults!**

**Until 31<sup>st</sup> December at Teesdale Leisure Centre, Barnard Castle**

This scheme allows all adults over 19 years of age to swim for half price in any swimming session. You need to complete a registration form which is available from Teesdale Leisure Centre. With this offer it will cost adult members 90p and non members £1.30 for a swim. There is also FREE swimming available if you are aged 18 or under, or 60 and over during any public swimming session.

For more information contact Teesdale Leisure Centre on 01833 696366 or email [leisure-teesdale@durham.gov.uk](mailto:leisure-teesdale@durham.gov.uk)

**Mobile Bar Service**

George Thirlaway is offering a mobile bar service to the member halls of Teesdale Village Halls Consortium. He has a personal licence for the sale of alcohol and full bartender training.

To contact George please telephone 07530 937666

**TVHC Criminal Record Bureau Checks Service**

Teesdale Village Halls Consortium is offering a Criminal Records Bureau check service to voluntary and community organisations in Teesdale. Helen Thistlethwaite has been trained as an appointed person to assist those wanting to apply to have a CRB check carried out. People who work unsupervised with children or vulnerable adults should have a CRB check carried out. TVHC can assist with completing a disclosure application form and carry out a check on the required identification documents.

The Consortium is offering this service in conjunction with CAVOS (Community and Voluntary Organisations Sedgefield) who are a registered body with the CRB. TVHC wants to provide this service locally to make the process as simple as possible for voluntary and community organisations in Teesdale.

TVHC charge a £15.00 administration fee for this service; this rate is reduced to £10.00 for the first five checks for our member halls. For more details please contact Helen on 01833 696650 or email [helen@teesdalehalls.co.uk](mailto:helen@teesdalehalls.co.uk)

*Details provided in this newsletter are for informational purposes only and are not a recommendation by TVHC*

Teesdale Village Halls Consortium is a company limited by guarantee.

It is registered in England and Wales with company number 5980201.

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